

During the UN General Assembly (UNGA) session on November 10, 2001, the Prime Minister, Shri Atal Behari Vajpayee forcefully conveyed India's point of view including our concerns on cross border terrorism.

India has welcomed international efforts including efforts under the United Nations to counter terrorism. In this framework, India has welcomed the UN Security Council Resolution 1373 of September 28, 2001. India is also piloting a Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism (CCIT) to strengthen the legal framework for countering terrorism. At the United Nations discussions on CCIT are continuing.

India supports the efforts being made by the international community, including through the UN, for the early return of peace and normalcy in Afghanistan.

Depiction of Goddess Lakshmi in objectionable terms

1257. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Goddess Lakshmi has been defined in objectionable terms in a museum in Australia; and

(b) if so, action taken to get the matter rectified?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH):

(a) It has come to the notice of the Government of India that in the Gold Museum in New South Wales, Australia, captions describing Goddess Lakshmi are, *prima-facie*, objectionable.

(b) The matter was taken up by the High Commissioner of India in Australia with the Speaker of the Australian House of Representatives as also directly with the Museum authorities.

Joint campaign to fight against international terrorism

†1258. SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI:

DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to launch a joint campaign at international level to combat with terrorism by bringing democratic countries at one forum;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.